



| COUNTRY      | VILLE                              | POPULATION       | GOAL   | NATIONAL UNDERNUTRITION RATE | NATIONAL OBESITY RATE |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SOUTH AFRICA | DURBAN - MUNICIPALITY OF ETHEKWINI | 3,442,361 (2011) | <u>INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FOOD PRODUCED LOCALLY BY 50% BY 2030</u> | 45.6% (2013)                 | 35.2% (2017)          |

# Durban • Agroecology to fight against food inequalities

Since 1975, global obesity has almost tripled: 1.9 billion adults were overweight in 2015, and of these, 650 million were obese. In the same year, 340 million children and adolescents from five to 19 years of age became overweight or obese. Yet, the "Zero Hunger" SDG 2 solely focusses on the food deficit component, and does not mention in its targets the quality of nutrition or overconsumption. Globally, there are now more deaths from excess weight and obesity than from insufficient weight: this is called the double nutritional load. In this respect, South Africa is in a paradoxical situation, with half of the country's population suffering from malnutrition while there is an increase in problems related to being overweight.

Inequalities in access to food are the primary cause of this health scourge. Young people and women are particularly affected: 70% of women are overweight and 42% are obese. Low-income households tend to turn to junk food, which is widely accessible, more affordable, and a source of instant gratification.

## The Municipality of eThekweni: public action in the service of small-scale farmers

The municipality of eThekweni (Kwazulu-Natal province), one of the eight metropolitan municipalities that make up South Africa, participates in the AgriHubs project

initiative. While 55% of the eThekweni territory is made up of rural areas, the majority of the population is concentrated in urban centres. The Zulu population, in particular, (77.8% of the population of Kwazulu-Natal) is concentrated in urban ghettos, a lingering legacy of Apartheid. Aware of the links between unemployment, food insecurity among young people, and the increase in obesity, the municipality supports the introduction of new farmers to land belonging to the metropolitan municipality and is developing a cross-cutting approach to meet SDGs 10 "reduced inequality", 13 "the fight against climate change" and 15 "life on earth". In 2020, 426 new farms were created in the territory.

In order to train these farmers and facilitate their access to the market, seven AgriHubs or "agrotechnological platforms" have been set up around the city. These multifunction sites offer training in agroecology (schooling farms) as well as shared tools and logistics. New farmers can thus develop their skills in order to increase their production while reducing their costs, thanks to donations of seeds, inputs, compost, or even fences. Spread throughout the territory, the AgriHubs make it possible to gather and store the farming products, which are then purchased by the municipality in order to supply the 589 small school refectories and soup kitchens in the territory, or be directly sold on

wholesale markets. Supplying the schools with fresh fruits and vegetables contributes to curbing weight problems among the youngest. 400,000 healthy meals are in this way distributed to the city's children every day. Agroecology also reduces emissions related to agriculture, the second largest emitter of GHGs in South Africa.

## Public and private partners addressing the SDGs

The agroecology and agribusiness services of the eThekweni municipality work closely together in building a sustainable food system for the territory. The municipality is thus one of the main investors in the Fair Food Company social enterprise. The Fair Food Company supports and trains small farmers in sustainable and productive agricultural practices while offering them a variety of markets in order to increase their income. Since 2013, the company has been developing the Edamame bean industry. The beans are rich in proteins and are particularly beneficial for soil enrichment.

Fair Food Company has created many jobs in the vegetable business: it guarantees the purchase of a quantity of vegetables which will be processed and sold wholesale and to company restaurants. The company supports about 1,600 small farmers in the Kwazulu-Natal province.

### IDENTIFICATION OF THE MAIN AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA

Source: eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, 2005, via Let's Food Cities

